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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No: To Be Assigned  
Applicant: ZIMMERMANN  
Filed: Herewith as national phase of International Application No.  
PCT/EP2003/006270, filed June 13, 2003  
  
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned  
  
Docket No. 710.1011  
Customer No: 23280

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 23, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicant requests that the following Amendments be made in the above-identified matter prior to examination thereof:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.